

in the number of cases recommended by Mr. Olsen raise serious questions about whether pressure from the president and other administration officials led him to inflate the number of detainees recommended for trial.

3. MISLEADING CONGRESS ABOUT THE TRANSFER OF UIGHUR DETAINEES TO THE UNITED STATES

It has become clear that the administration was directing Mr. Olsen to intentionally withhold information from members of Congress and he willingly complied with their inappropriate direction. According to *Newsweek*, *The Washington Post* and *The National Journal*, the administration was planning a secret transfer and settlement of at least two Uighur detainees to northern Virginia in April 2009. Each of these reports indicates the degree to which the White House attempted to hide this effort from the Congress and the public.

According to a May 2009, article in *Newsweek*, White House officials are alleged to have been particularly concerned about Republican members of Congress being made aware of the secret transfer. *Newsweek* reported, "As part of their efforts to shut down the Guantanamo Bay detention center, Obama Administration officials were poised in late April to make a bold, stealthy move: they instructed the U.S. Marshals Service to prepare an aircraft and a Special Ops group to fly two Chinese Uighurs, and up to five more on subsequent flights, from Gitmo to northern Virginia for resettlement. In a conference call overseen by the National Security Council, Justice and Pentagon officials had been warned that any public statements about Gitmo transfers would inflame congressional Republicans, according to a law-enforcement official who asked not to be named discussing internal deliberations." (This operation appears similar to the administration's secret transfer of Somali terrorist Ahmed Abdulkadir Warsame to New York City for civilian trial on July 5 after spending two months on a U.S. Navy ship).

It has recently come to my attention that I was misled about the status of the transfer of the Uighur detainees in April 2009. This information confirms the *Newsweek* report that career federal employees were explicitly directed to hide this information from members of Congress, especially Republican members.

During an April 22, 2009, meeting in my office with members of the Guantanamo Bay Detainee Review Task Force, including Mr. Olsen, I inquired about the status of the potential transfer of Uighur detainees to the United States. Mr. Olsen indicated that a decision had not yet been reached on the transfer of the detainees. None of the other career or political officials in the meeting countered Mr. Olsen's assertion.

That is why I was deeply concerned to learn in an April 2011, *Washington Post* article, that the final decision on the transfer of the Uighur detainees had been made during a White House meeting eight days before my meeting with Mr. Olsen. According to *The Washington Post* article, "The first concrete step toward closing the detention center was agreed upon during an April 14, 2009, session at the White House. 'It was to be a stealth move . . . They were going to show up here, and we were going to announce it,' said one senior official, describing the swift, secretive operation that was designed by the administration to preempt any political outcry that could prevent the transfer."

Following the publication of this article in April, I personally called Mr. Olsen to ask whether he was aware at the time of my meeting with him on April 22, 2009, that a decision had already been made on the transfer of the detainees. He told me that he had been aware of the decision prior to our meeting.

I believe that I was intentionally misled by Mr. Olsen and other administration officials during my April 22 meeting with the task force. I also am concerned that the attorney general did not acknowledge that a decision had been made when he appeared before the House Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations subcommittee the following day. That is why I was surprised when my office was notified by a career federal employee that the administration was misleading the Congress and planned to secretly transfer the detainees around May 1, 2009.

As *Newsweek* reported, "Then on May 1, Virginia GOP Rep. Frank Wolf got tipped off. Furious, he fired off a public letter to President Obama, charging that the release of the Uighurs—Muslim separatists opposed to the Chinese government—could 'directly threaten the security of the American people.' White House officials were not happy . . . The flight never took off."

HONORING ROBERT THORSEN UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight the career of Robert Thorsen, on the occasion of his retirement, on July 4th, 2011, and to thank him for his more than twenty-three years of distinguished service and dedication to the United States House of Representatives.

Mr. Thorsen helped guide the House community from mainframe computers to the House Cloud of today. He was responsible for re-establishing the House Information Resources (HIR) Technology Call Center, TCC, and he helped expand the TCC into a 24/7, 365-days-a-year operation. In the past several years, Bob has worked with the HIR Technology Support Escalations Team to provide high-quality support to all House offices. He has also been involved in continuity and contingency planning efforts for the House.

Beyond his work at the House, Mr. Thorsen served in the U.S. Army and U.S. Army Reserve. He was recalled to active duty in 1990, serving in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait during operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Desert Calm. He retired from the reserves in 2002 with the rank of Lt. Colonel.

Mr. Thorsen's knowledge, experience, dedication and consistently outstanding performance have set an example for superior customer service. These traits have also earned Mr. Thorsen the respect of his co-workers and colleagues.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Robert (Bob) Thorsen for his many years of dedication, outstanding contributions and service to the House.

We wish him many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

RETIREMENT OF ARLENE REYES UNPINGCO FROM THE GUAM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Arlene Reyes Unpingco, for her years of support to the education system on Guam. Mrs. Unpingco is retiring as Deputy Superintendent of Educational Support and Community Learning for the Guam Department of Education (GDOE) after 25 years of service to the people of Guam.

Mrs. Unpingco began her career at GDOE immediately after receiving her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education, majoring in Elementary and Special Education, from the University of Guam in 1986. In 2000, Mrs. Unpingco received her Master's Degree in Education, with specialization in Administration & Supervision, again from the University of Guam. Mrs. Unpingco began her career as an elementary and middle school teacher on Guam. She later was promoted to serve as an Assistant Principal, and eventually, School Principal in several local schools. In 2008, Mrs. Unpingco's contributions to the classroom and through education administration were recognized as she was appointed to the role of Deputy Superintendent of Educational Support and Community Learning. In her years of service, her commitment to our students and leadership in administration has helped to strengthen our island's education system in many far reaching ways.

Mrs. Unpingco was born and raised in the central village of Tamuning, Guam, on September 15, 1956. She is married to the Honorable Steven Sablan Unpingco, retired Superior Court Judge and resides, with her family, on the shores of beautiful Pago Bay, Chalan Pago. She is blessed with five children: Jan, Jason, Josselyn, Steven, and Michael; and four grandchildren: Brandon, Jaylene, Jenna, and Kailani.

It is on the occasion of Mrs. Unpingco's retirement from the Government of Guam's Department of Education that I join the people of Guam in acknowledging her service and dedication to our island's public schools and the education of Guam's children. I wish her the best in her retirement and in her future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF CONGRESSMAN FRANK MASCARA

HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to former Congressman Frank R. Mascara, who passed away Sunday, July 10 at the age of 81. Born in Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania, Congressman Mascara proudly served southwestern Pennsylvania for over 30 years, first at the county level, then for four terms in the United States House of Representatives.

A first-generation Italian-American, Mascara embodied the humble, hardworking nature of his immigrant parents and his constituents